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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended March 31, 1950)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28---- This week's Best Buys in fruit are Newtown apples and Winter Nellis pears.

Imperial Valley grapefruit is a Good Buy.

Valencia oranges are coming to market and can be classed as a Fair Buy, along with lemons (higher).

Strawberries continue to come in from southern California and are selling slightly lower than last week.

Avocados have gone up in price and remain in the luxury class with Mexican bananas and Cuban pineapples.

Best Buys from the vegetable bin this week include cauliflower, dry onions, and spinach.

In the Good Buy class are asparagus, carrots, artichokes, hothouse rhubarb from Washington, lettuce, and peas (lower).

Cabbage is the Fair Buy of the week.

Meat --

Demand continued slow to fair in the San Francisco wholesale meat market the past week. Although the supply of cow beef was somewhat heavier, most of the beef supply consisted of top-Commercial and Good grade steer beef at prices \$1.00 per hundredweight higher. Prices also moved up on beef cuts, with Good hindquarters \$3.00 to \$4.00 per hundredweight higher, rounds and forequarters \$1.00 higher, and loins up \$2.00 per hundredweight. Late in the week, supplies of fresh veal and calf were ample and indications were that the supply would become heavier. Demand has been slow for lamb that has varied considerably in weight -- especially spring lamb. But prices have held unchanged. Fresh pork loins in ample supply dropped \$2.00 per hundredweight, while all other classes have held unchanged.

Butter

Demand for butter continues on the slow side in the San Francisco wholesale market, while western production continues well above last year. On top-grade butter the price range has widened somewhat from a week ago, with Grades A&M (1st Quality) quoted to retailers at 64-1/2 to 67 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints. Grade B(2nd Quality) remains unchanged in price at a quotation to retailers of 62-1/2 to 63-1/2 cents per pound in cartons of 1/4-lb. prints.

Eggs

Eggs continue in generous supply, with the surplus moving into storage. Prices are unchanged from a week ago. Grade "A" Large are quoted to retailers at 42 to 43 cents per dozen; Grade "A" Mediums at 40 to 41 cents per dozen; and Grade "A" Smalls at 32 to 34 cents per dozen. In all instances these eggs are packed in cartons.

Poultry

In the San Francisco wholesale poultry market prices have advanced 1-cent per pound from a week ago on all classes of dressed young chickens. Generally, the supply of broilers has been sufficient for demand, but fryers and roasters have been in very short supply. Ample supplies of Leghorn hens have dropped another 1-cent per pound, while heavy hens have held unchanged. All other classes of poultry remain unchanged in price.

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